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A MONTHLY REVIEW OF THE UFO PHENOMENON
REPORTS, INVESTIGATIONS & ANALYSES

"There is no hope of advance in science without a paradox."—Niels Bohr

CLOSE ENCOUNTER IN CALIFORNIA

FIVE UFO'S SELECTED FROM 67 CASES: Nov. 15-Dec. 14

RE-EVALUATED STATISTICS FOR THE AIR FORCE'S 13,134 UFO SIGHTINGS: PART 1

ON REVIEW:

THE UFO CONTROVERSY IN AMERICA

PLUS:

Foreign Forum,
UFO Profile: November, 1976
Latest UFO News

Editor-in-chief: Dr. J. Allen Hynek; **Managing Editor:** Allan Hendry

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Subscriptions: $12.00 per year in the United States and Canada (plus $3.00 foreign), and $20.00 for two years (plus $6.00 foreign). All notices of change of address must be sent six weeks in advance and accompanied by old and new addresses. J. Allen Hynek, *Chairman of the Board*; David J. Baldwin, *President and Publisher*; Carl M. Teutsch, Jr., *Executive Vice-President*; Harvey X. Koloms, *Secretary/Treasurer.*

EDITORIAL

by Dr. J. Allen Hynek

When we study a UFO report we naturally focus on the reported event —the object and its actions—but how often do we consider the witness (or witnesses) who made the report? What about his feelings and thoughts? Did he know how much disbelief and ridicule he would meet? Was he sorry later that he reported?

There are many reasons why a witness often comes to regret having "reported", but a major one is the number of times he is asked to repeat his story. First, one investigator appears, proffering "gilt-edged" credentials and the witness welcomes the chance to report "officially". But then new investigators appear, often disparaging those who came before, and request recital once again of the whole sequence of events. The witness does so, even though confused by all of this, believing that now for sure he is making his "official" report.

In a recent case in the West the witness was so harassed by investigators lacking in tact, technical knowledge, and even common courtesy that he withdrew in disgust. He had suffered enough indignities and invasion of privacy. And all of this apart from phone calls from the media, from "friends" and the curious or from religious fanatics or those who would berate him and impugn his sanity.

There is little that can be done about the media and crank calls, but might there not be a gentleman's agreement among serious investigators to pool their information? Not only would this be a far more efficient way of getting the facts but it would bring the witness, already harried by the media, some solace knowing that he need tell his story only *once* for the benefit of science.

J. Allen Hynek

* * * * * * * THE LATEST UFO NEWS EVENTS, PREPARED DEC. 31, 1976 * * * * * * *

DONALD MENZEL DEAD AT 75 - Donald Menzel, astrophycisist at the Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Mass., passed away on Dec. 14, 1976. Author of a number of science (and science-fiction) works, Dr. Menzel will be remembered in UFO circles as one of the most stubborn advocates of the theory that all UFO's are misperceptions of natural stimuli, as reflected in his 1963 work, "The World of Flying Saucers".

OPERATION ARGUS: PROGRESS REPORT - Project Starlight International is a highly-instrumented approach toward UFO research directed by Ray Stanford from a 400-acre base of operations located in Austin, Texas. A bulletin recently issued by P.S.I. described the progress of their new major endeavor, Operation ARGUS (Automated Ring-up on Geo-located UFO Sightings), a computer-centered, triple-triangulation UFO tracking system. P.S.I. has completed the installation of a 360 degree radar system with a range of 12 miles, the operation of which is pending licensing by the FCC. Other laboratory instruments include a radio receiver with a visual display which monitors a large portion of the RF spectrum, a magnetometer, a gravimeter, an 8-channel chart recorder (which functions automatically in the event of a magnetic disturbance), a system which photographs UFO's simultaneously from three separate locations, and a 7 frame-per-second 35 mm. movie camera. This is in addition to their video, telescopic, and lasar installations. IUR will report any results generated by this effort. Operation ARGUS will automatically alert many volunteers by telephone within a reasonable distance of the Texas base in an attempt to secure a maximum number of witnesses.

UFO INTEREST IN INDONESIA - As a consequence of Dr. J. Allen Hynek's lectures in Jakarta and Lembang at the invitation of the Indonesian government, an agreement of cooperation has beem established between the Center for UFO Studies and the Indonesian Space Society, a public ancillary of LAPAN, Indonesia's space research agency. The Society's director, Vice-Air Marshal Salatun of the Indonesian Air Force described to Dr. Hynek approximately 30 UFO incidents of varied appearance and behavior spanning 20 years from 1947 to 1967.

UFO'S AND PHYSICS TODAY - A letter in PHYSICS TODAY in 1974 proposing anti-matter in the earth's atmosphere as an explanation for some UFO sightings has triggered an ongoing dialogue that has persisted to this day. A total of 13 letters by 9 different authors have appeared; some proposing open research into the UFO phenomenon, some rationalized explanations, and 2 discounted the subject entirely (predictably, one of them was by Donald Menzel). Content aside, it is a healthy sign when the conservative journal of the American Physical Society provides an open forum for discussion of this non-conservative subject.

UFO ANALYSIS - The 6 remaining cases from the last issue (Vol. 1, No. 2) were all attibutable to IFO's: aircraft, stars, one helicopter, and one set of unreliable witnesses. The remaining 12 cases under investigation in this issue included 5 stars, 4 aircraft, 1 spotlight, 1 unavailable witness, and 1 Nocturnal Light.

CASE: 2-1-57; TYPE: NL; DATE: 12-13-76; TIME: 12:34 AM; DURATION: 30 min.; NUMBER OF WITNESSES: 1; PLACE: Broadalbin, N.Y.
62-year old woman watches white, horizontal "oval" much larger than full moon "bouncing up and down like a puppet" over the eastern trees, and dropping small white lights from it. The moon was seen in addition to it. Some clouds present. Single witness; no additional reports - rural area. Suggests natural explanation, possibly nearby moon on clouds.

CORRESPONDENCE

My compliments to you on the first issue of "International UFO Reporter" . . . let me say that IUR is much more befitting an organization that professes to bring a scientific outlook to the investigation of UFO cases.

My only complaint on the first issue is that your data summary on pages 5-7 covers the period of Sept. 15 through Oct. 14, while the data summary on page 8 covers the period of Sept. 1-30. Why the different periods?

Finally, compliments to Allan Hendry for his Commentary on: "Towards a New Treatment".

PHIL KLASS
Washington, D.C.

The problem is one of printing deadline; a statistical review is most useful in a chronologically-logical order, but if we went to press at the end of the month, there wouldn't be time to properly investigate the last few cases. Hence, we set a deadline of the 15th of each month; but this would prevent us from describing *the very latest cases that have come to our attention. So we stagger the two features. One should be treated as "current news" while the other represents statistics with an unfortunate, but necessary 2-week delay.*
—Ed.

IN CURRENT JOURNALS

PHILIP KLASS ON THE TRAVIS WALTON CASE, by James Oberg, OFFICIAL UFO, Feb., 1977. "Concerning the Walton polygraph tests, there are additional facts: what the public has not been told is that Travis Walton took his first lie detector test on November 15, 1975, a few days after the reported incident. He flunked it. This evidence has been withheld from the general public."

The current issue of NICAP UFO INVESTIGATOR treats in detail the September 19, 1976 sighting by the Iranian Air Force command post in Tehran which was briefly mentioned in IUR, Volume 1, Issue 1. An interesting nocturnal light sighting, this case consisted of a ground-visual sighting of a brilliant star-like object which prompted the command post to scramble a F-4 jet to intercept the UFO. When the jet approached the UFO, its communication and instrumentation devices were allegedly interfered with until it broke away. A second jet pursued the UFO. When a search party was directed to the area the next day, they found no trace of the UFO or of its landing, though a farmer in the area stated that he had noticed a loud sound and a very bright light in the area of the landing site the night before.

BOOK REVIEW

THE UFO CONTROVERSY IN AMERICA, by Dr. David Michael Jacobs, Signet Press, New York, 1976. 332 pages.

The hardover edition of Dr. Jacobs book has been available since 1975, but this paperback version will render the work accessible to a larger reading audience. It should be so, as it is one of the most carefully researched chronicles of UFOlogy (and UFOlogists) available. The scope of the book is confined to UFO sightings in the U.S. during two periods: the current phenomenon of the post-war years, and the "airship" wave at the turn of the century.

Adopting a non-judgmental stance towards the subject, the book is a definitive reference source on the personalities, organizations, and the investigative efforts that have been the components of the UFO research effort in America, but not on specific cases, themselves. Indeed, the work represents Dr. Jacobs doctoral thesis from the department of history at the University of Wisconsin.

Available from bookstores for $1.95; highly recommended as the comprehensive study on the pursuit of UFOlogy in America.

FOREIGN FORUM

This is a representative sampling of UFO sightings from around the world. While we can not exert the same degree of control over these cases we can on domestic ones, it is of value to see that the same characteristics are reported for this phenomenon abroad as in the U.S.

CANADA: Port Perry, Ont., Sept. 11, 1976. Three members of the Hood family were driving back from a drive-in along a stretch of country road to their rural home in Little Britain. Paul Hood called the other's attention to a flashing light over the treetops. When their car approached, it darted off. Days later, Paul and Don Hood found a 30-foot diameter circle, the ground burned and swirled, by a split rail fence in the swamp less than a quarter-mile from their home. Six pock marks the size of grapefruits were found; the circle swirled in a counter-clockwise direction.

IRAN: Tehran, weekend of Sept. 20, 1976. Shortly after the UFO-Phantom jet chase in Tehran (reported in Vol. 1, No. 1), Iranian authorities were presented with a considerable number of additional UFO reports. One of the more striking was the alleged kidnapping of Ahmad-Beni-Ahmad, 56, a researcher of Iranian history and his wife by UFO occupants. While at Tabriz Lake, a glittering body landed 100 feet in front of their car. The UFO was described as round, 4-5 meters in diameter with a small window in the side. The occupants were described as looking like two "Egyptian mummies". Reported in the Tehran, Iran *Journal*.

PERU: Lima, Sept. 8, 1976. A couple driving on a road between Ollachea and Ayaviri, Peru claimed that their truck was intercepted by a UFO which landed 30 meters in front of them. Two strange "aliens" about 1.75 meters tall (6 feet) approached the blocked truck with flashlights. Leoncio Torres and Elena Bedjara said their backs were touched by the creatures and felt as if they were being burned. Reported in *Cronica*, Buenos Aires and *La Razon*.

URUGUAY: Tacuarembo, Sept. 13, 1976. This area has been the site of numerous UFO sightings for over a month. A UFO was described shaped like an upturned funnel emitting a brilliant beam of light from the top, with windows seen. One was reported to have landed for 3-4 minutes; police could see landing marks and partial burns. The size has been estimated at 13-15 meters in diameter and 2 meters in height. A ranch worker named George Aguerre reported seeing two powerful beams of light emit from the UFO "like a car". Reported in *Cronica*, Buenos Aires.

SOURCE FOR ALL CASES: UFO Newsclipping Service, 4540 8th Ave. NE, Suite 404, Seattle, Wash. 98105

AN IUR EXCLUSIVE

A STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF THE AIR FORCE BLUE BOOK UFO FILES-PART I

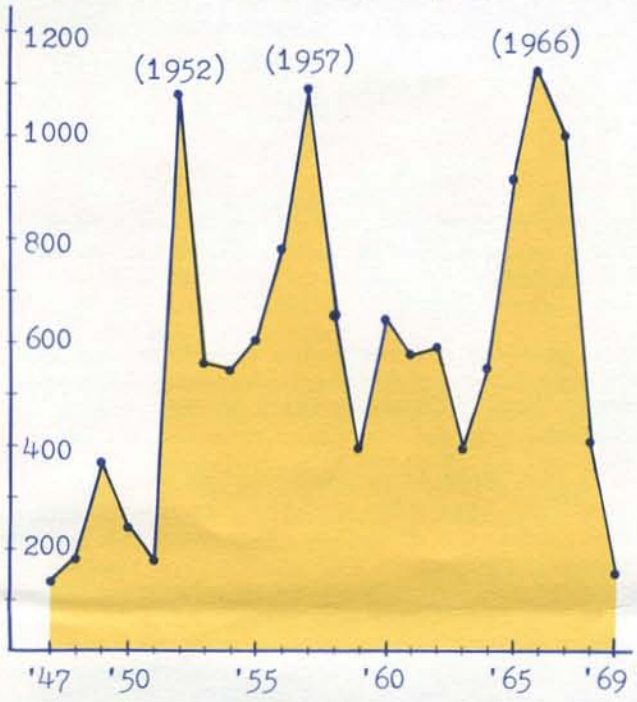
prepared from material for a forthcoming book by Dr. J. Allen Hynek

In July of 1976, the National Archives in Washington, D.C. released to the public the formerly restricted "Project Blue Book" records of UFO sightings collected by the United States Air Force from 1947 to 1969. Available in the form of ninety-four reels of microfilm, the material contains a counted total of 13,134 reports amassed mainly from the United States over that twenty-two year period.

Annual Distributions

Figure 1 illustrates the distribution of these reports by year. Note in particular the seeming "flaps" or peaks of activity which occur in the years 1952, 1957, and 1966.

FIGURE 1—ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION, ALL REPORTS

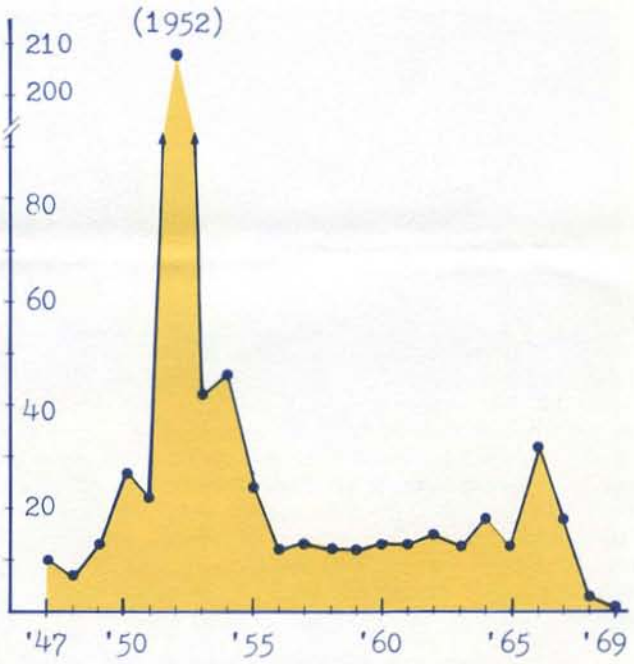


Note also how the number of reports is at its lowest ebb at both the beginning and end of the period. There are two possible explanations for this effect:

1) the nature of the phenomenon itself has actually altered, or
2) witnesses didn't report in the early years (or didn't know to whom they should report) and in the final years, adverse publicity made witnesses reluctant to come forward (or Blue Book didn't solicit reports as actively).

Of course, this curve represents a combination of two entirely different phenomena: "true" UFO reports and "IFO" (identifiable) reports. The microfilms contain a total of 587 sightings which the Air Force judged to be "unknowns". The annual distribution of UFOs *only* (as judged by the Blue Book investigators) is presented in Figure 2. Compare this with Figure 1 and note how the year 1952 is uniquely outstanding in amplitude; only a

FIGURE 2—ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION, UNKNOWNS



residual number of UFOs occur during each year after that. A full 35.4% of all the Air Force "unknowns" occurred in that one year. What has caused this anomaly? Two alternatives commend themselves:

1) there is a change in Air Force policy which did not allow for "unknowns" as time went on.
2) the phenomenon itself changed.

At *this point* it is impossible to draw the distinction between the two. We shall see, however, that this question can indeed be resolved.

On the basis of Figures 1 and 2, let us derive the percentage of "real" UFO reports on a year to year basis.

FIGURE 3—PERCENTAGES OF "UNKNOWNS" BY YEARS

YEAR	%	YEAR	%
1947	7.4%	1959	3.1%
1948	4.0	1960	2.0
1949	3.5	1961	2.3
1950	11.4	1962	2.5
1951	12.6	1963	3.3
1952	19.3	1964	3.3
1953	7.5	1965	1.4
1954	8.4	1966	2.8
1955	4.0	1967	1.8
1956	1.5	1968	0.7
1957	1.2	1969	0.7
1958	1.8		

See how constant the values are beyond 1955! Also note how small the figures are, except for 1952's one-out-of-five share of the total reports.

The Air Force assigned IFO reports the following categories and precentages:

FIGURE 4—TOTAL NUMBER OF IFOs

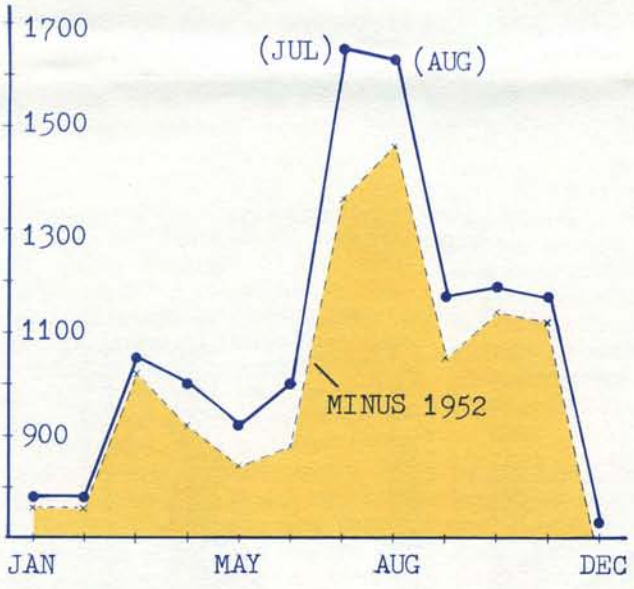
TYPE OF IFO	PERCENTAGE
Astronomical	26.1%
Aircraft	17.1
Balloons	9.4
Radar Phenomena	1.2
Psychological	0.5
Hoax	0.9
Meterological	0.3
Birds	0.7
Insufficient Info.	18.7
Other	21.8

Observe the large number of "insufficient information" reports—"insufficient *investigation*" is more appropriate, a problem not encountered in IUR's current investigations. Remember the Air Force was motivated more by potential threats to national security than gains from "pure" scientific research, which helps to explain the seeming sloppiness. It is interesting to note that less than two per cent of the reports were dismissed as "psychological" or as the result of hoaxes, *according to the Air Force*. Yet in 1949 the Department of Defense issued a public statement which established hoaxes as one of the three major causes of UFO reports.

Monthly Distributions—Are UFOs Seasonal?

The answer appears to be "yes", for total numbers of reports; Figure 5 demonstrates that UFO report abundance is clearly a function of the time of year.

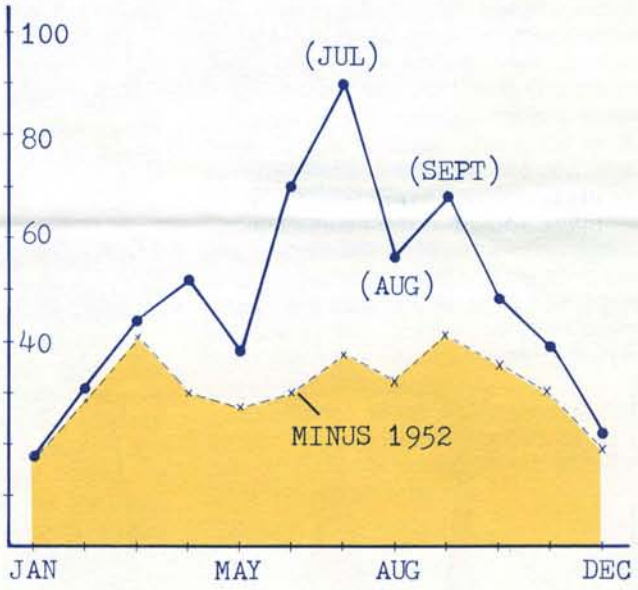
FIGURE 5—MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION, ALL REPORTS



Remember these refer to sightings as opposed to genuine "unidentifieds". The resulting peak in July and August is logical; more potential witnesses are available outdoors during the warm summer months to perceive UFOs and IFOs alike. The distribution is essentially the same with or without the exceptional "flap" year of 1952.

However, let's plot only the 587 Air Force "unknowns" by month in Figure 6. At first glance the seasonal distribution is similar, but if one removes the exceptional year of 1952, then the distribution becomes uniform

FIGURE 6—MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION, UNKNOWNS



throughout the year. With the exception of a slight decrease in the months of extreme winter, the appearance of "true" UFOs is a constant function with respect to month.

What About the "Flap" Years?

The years 1952, 1957, and 1966 represent the three "standout" peaks of activity. Examining the specific content of reports from 1957 and 1966, we see that the percentage of unidentifieds to total reports is the same as the non-"flap" years—the difference lies only in the number of reports, for which, there is no discernible cause—possibly enhanced public awareness wherein people went out and "looked for UFOs". The "flap" of 1952, however, was unique in that the number of "real" UFOs (by Air Force standards) is high, as is the UFOs share of the total figure. If ever there was a widespread UFO phenomenon in the United States, it occurred during 1952!

Why the difference in the "flaps"? Did the "true" UFO phenomenon really "come and go" leaving IFO reports as its basic legacy? Or had the Air Force changed its policy so as to not "permit" the existence of "unknowns" as time went on?

To resolve this issue and to examine for the first time the content of the "unidentifieds" themselves in light of modern knowledge as well as to recover some of the interesting cases which the Air Force did not deign to classify as "unknown", the editors of IUR have secured an impartial re-evaluation of the 13,134 Blue Book cases. This article will conclude next month with these re-evaluations and the insights gained from them.

FIVE UFO'S SELECTED FROM 67 CASES: Nov. 15-Dec. 14

HOW WE LEARN OF UFO'S: UFO reports are from news departments, civilian organizations and individuals all over the world, but most of our reports stem from the Center for UFO Studies' UFO Central Hotline. This is a 24-hour, toll-free telephone service for the exclusive use of law enforcement agencies, FAA agencies, planetaria and other formal channels. This gives us the chance to follow up *all* cases rapidly for first-hand information with unlimited long-distance capability. Other advantages include screening of the hoaxers. Indeed, police who patrol when others are asleep are encouraged to fill this void.

HOW WE DEFINE UFO'S: Any anomalous aerial phenomena whose appearance and/or behavior can't be ascribed to conventional objects and effects—not only by the original witnesses, but also by analysts who possess technical qualifications the original observer may lack.

NL—Nocturnal Light: distant anomalous lights seen in the night sky
DD—Daylight Discs: distant disc-like objects seen during the day
RV—Radar/Visual: UFOs seen by radar and vision simultaneously

CE I—Close Encounter of the First Kind: UFOs seen within 500 feet
CE II—Close Encounter of the Second Kind: CE I's that leave behind physical traces
CE III—Close Encounter of the Third Kind: CE I with humanoid occupants seen

HOW WE NUMBER CASES: All UFO sightings will receive a three element number which will serve as a case "name". The first numbers refer to the volume and issue number of the edition that contains the case, and the last number refers to the order it arrived (example: 1-1-7, the seventh case of the first issue).

1—Confirmed Identifieds

These reports completely break down as having commonplace explanations when subjected to rigorous scrutiny. We have either correlated them directly to some stimulus present at that time or, at least, have judged them to be well within the bounds of contemporary knowledge. This month's IFO reports were generated by the following phenomena:

There are 12 recent cases still being investigated—the results will be made known in the news page.

Stars and Planets	21	Test Cloud	3
Aircraft	8	Meteors	2
Ad Planes	7	Spotlight	1
Helicopters	4	Unreliable Witness	1
Moon	3	IFO TOTAL	50

2—UFOs of Limited Merit

These reports are of intermediate stature. They are UFOs in the sense that we don't know what they are, but for a variety of stated *reasons, they are not really worthy of closer scrutiny.*

CASE	TYPE	DATE	TIME	DURATION	WITNESSES	PLACE
2-1-1	NL	11/15/76	1:15 AM	45 min.	4	Cedar Rapids, IA

6 distant, domed saucers with brilliant white lights seen performing unusual patterns in the night sky. A shiny, metallic texture was noted, as was an intermittent sound like "a belt sander on metal".
Mostly seen as light sources; none are seen larger than a "distant aircraft". No unusual traffic logged by Cedar Rapids Air Traffic Control. No additional reports to the police; the police helicopter was down by 1:00 AM, but there are other heliports nearby. Possible misidentification of aircraft.

2-1-16	NL	11/19/76	8:00 PM	20 min.	7	St. Peter, MN

3 women, one a pilot, watch a large, brilliant yellow-orange light source slowly meander over a church, about 150 feet up. Driving to the police station they obtain police witnesses who watch the now distant light head from the west to the eastern horizon. No sound heard.
No radar image from Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Traffic Control. No sightings from Mankato and St. Peter Municipal Airports. Motion likened to a "bobbing balloon" by police sergeant—"stop-move-stop", in a straight line. Winds were from the NW at 8 m.p.h. Possible illuminated balloon.

2-1-25	NL	11/23/76	3:30 AM	5-6 min.	2	Kenner, LA

Lounge owner, 45, and employee, 25, frightened by dome 3 times the size of a helicopter with flashing red, green and white lights flying at rooftop level over their car from the south. It hovered over some trees in the distance for 2 minutes, then headed slowly east toward Moisant Airport.
Older witness near-sighted, no glasses. Moisant Airport reported no unusual traffic, nor did Lakefront Airport. Possible helicopter, though not the sheriff's department's.

2-1-27	NL	11/24/76	10:30 PM	1 hr. 30 min.	12	New Albany, IN

Indiana Gas serviceman, 45, sees a 12-foot white "cone" of light with "sparklers" at its base diminish to a blinding point source alongside his pickup truck. It follows him from the Kentucky border and rushes silently ahead when he reaches town into the eastern sky. Other witnesses see it as distant point of light. When others leave, object rushes back over witness' house into the NW sky.
Only one person sees the object look or move in a manner not ascribable to a star or plane. Conflicting reports from the others about motion, or lack thereof. Main witness offered strong preconceived ideas about it being a top-secret nuclear test device. No radar image seen at Standiford Field or the Indianapolis Air Route Traffic Control center.

2-1-29	NL	11/25/76	9:00 PM	5-6 min.	2	Beecher, IL

Couple sees oblong, glowing orange object 45 degrees in the the western sky. Holding stationary, the object was seen to diminish to a point source and return to its original shape, larger than the moon. Lost when car drove off expressway.
The moon had already set hours before. None of the ad plane companies were flying that night. Nothing logged on this at O'Hare Airport or Aurora Air Route Traffic Control Center. Suggests natural explanation.

First, a comprehensive study of the UFO's reported characteristics, then the technical judgment necessary to satisfy our UFO definition.

3—the UFO Finalist

Here is a Close Encounter that was seen to have a variety of effects on the environment over which it hovered. The primary witness was Bill Pecha, 39, a heavy machine mechanic with a penchant for outdoor sports, race car driving, and a reputation for honesty and reliability. He is the only witness, however, who reports seeing the object at very close range and in great detail; he is also the only one who reported seeing the additional objects described over the power lines. Gayle Arant, 35, a librarian's assistant, is the only other witness who reported seeing the shape of the object, but it was seen as a distinct outline to her. All other witnesses, including Mr. Pecha's wife, Gayle Arant's husband, a sheriff's department employee and her 17-year old son, and a woman half-mile to the south saw only an exceptionally bright light; however, all of them described exactly the same west-east-south **trajectory**, and three of those witnesses called the sheriff completely independently of the primary witnesses. IUR is grateful to investigators Paul Cerny and Robert Pratt for most of the information seen here.

Reconstruction Approved With Modifications

ENVIRONMENT

DATE: Friday, Sept. 10, 1976 **TIME:** 12:45 AM
PLACE: Bill Pecha's mobile home, 2 miles west of Colusa, California (60 mi. NW of Sacramento)—an agricultural community with a population of 3,500, and an unobscured view of the sky.

APPEARANCE

There is one, primary object, and two similar ones seen in the distance. The primary object looked like a domed saucer about 150 feet wide, as judged by the distance from the barn roof to the TV antenna over which it hovered. The dome was vertically-ribbed with concave sections like a lemon juice squeezer with a slight peak; both the dome and its base had a dark silver-grey appearance, like porous slag. The upper body of the saucer was like porcelain, while the outer rim was like stainless steel. This rim was seen to rotate in a clockwise direction, in contrast to the central area of the white, flat underside, which rotated counter-clockwise, and more slowly (Mr. Pecha indicated that this CCW motion may have been an illusion created by the unusual lighting). A large diameter light source occupied the center of the underside, emitting a dim light when hovering, and a bright light when accelerating. There is a large, red light in front, two retractable sidelights, like clusters of cubes mounted on curved tubing, 6 dangling cables 6 to 8 feet long and 2 to 3 inches in diameter with frayed ends, and two hook-like arms. No rivets, bolts, screws, seams or patterns could be seen; no air disturbance was created by the object.

MOTION

Total duration object is in view: approximately 20 minutes. Bill Pecha steps outside of his mobile home to check his circuit breakers after the power failed to his TV and air conditioner. Suddenly the hairs on his body become charged with electricity (he is wearing only briefs), and looks about him. Glancing up, he sees the object almost overhead. It is 50-60 feet up, judging by the height of the nearby barn, and extends from beyond the top of his barn to beyond the TV antenna. It hovers slightly until he steps forward, and it slowly retreats toward the west. The 3 "cables" dangling over the barn retract up into the object on a slant, to avoid touching the roof. After 4-5 minutes, it is 150-200 yards away. As it retreats back over the field behind the Pecha home, the cables retract, the hook-like arms partially retract, and sidelights project out, and the large white light intensifies such that a cone of light projects down, but cuts off in mid-air! It then maneuvers over the Davis' home, illuminating their property with beams of light for 1 minute. Meanwhile, 2 other similar UFO's could be seen further in the distance hovering directly over the 125-foot tall 500,000 volt power lines. Mr. Pecha reported that they were casting blue beams down onto the lines, and an arc of light was extending up through those beams from the lines to the objects. "I thought they might have been zapping power". The primary object now "shoots off" westward, directly between the 2 others (revealing that they are about half the size of the primary one), and could be seen as a bright light illuminating the foothills—a jump of 18-20 miles in 2-3 seconds! Then it rushes back at the same velocity over the Davis' property. Mr.

Pecha sees the 2 smaller objects shoot out of sight at opposite 45-degree angles above the cloud line. This coincides with the return of power to his TV and air conditioner. Total elapsed time of power failure: 9 minutes. Mr. Pecha puts on a pair of old jeans, and he and his wife evacuate with their children into their new, white pickup truck. Mr. Pecha drives off at 90 m.p.h. with his headlights off, but the object is seen by him to follow anyway as he drives toward town, almost 2 miles away. The object maneuvers back and forth across the road a few hundred feet away from the truck. Reaching the house of their friends, the Arants, he gets out, pounds on the door, and points out the object to Gayle Arant. She describes it as being about a mile away, larger than the full moon, and plainly discernible as a domed saucer with an illuminated underside. It is seen by these 2, and at the end by Mr. Arant, to move rapidly from west to east, and then south toward Sacramento in 35 seconds time, climbing higher in the sky and disappearing suddenly. Meanwhile, at least three other, independent witnesses are reporting the same trajectory to the sheriff—Pecha home, foothills in the west, back again, and south toward Sacramento.

WEATHER

Mr. Pecha described the sky as "crystal clear" with some "big, fluffy clouds", stars, and a moon. The U.S. Weather Bureau agreed; scattered high clouds, 15-mile visibility, 72 degrees with 40% humidity. Wind was from the SSE at 10 m.p.h.

WITNESS REACTION

Bill Pecha is a man with 20-20 eyesight, a calm demeanor, yet the stamina to engage in destruction derby racing—not the kind of man who would seem to frighten easily. Yet all who knew him were impressed by the state of panic he exhibited that night. His wife, Lenda, said, "what scared me more than anything was the state Bill was in. I've been married to him for 14 years and I've never seen him like this." Officer Bill Wheeler said Mr. Pecha was almost in "a state of shock" when he arrived after the incident. "I thought we were going to get destroyed," Mr. Pecha said. "It was just a bad nightmare and I don't want to go through that again, never." Townspeople vouching for Mr. Pecha's reputation of honesty and calmness ("he's someone who doesn't make up stories") include Lt. Hubbell of the sheriff's department, City Police Chief Cation, Patrolman Bill Wheeler, and Wilmer Brill, publisher of Colusa's newspaper. Gayle Arant said, "I do believe it was a UFO—and it scared me." Mrs. Pecha only looked at it furtively in the distance, and then didn't look at it again; the Pecha children never looked at it. The Davis family was asleep when it was reported to hover over their house, but their dogs were heard to bark.

REPORTED EFFECTS

STATIC ELECTRICITY: The exposed hair on Mr. Pecha's chest, arms and head were standing on end, crackling and snapping, when he stood under the object. Hours later, a policeman touched him and received a strong jolt up to his elbow. It should be noted, however, that Mr. Pecha made contact with his wife and children *in the interim* and didn't shock *them*. Note also that the humidity was 40% at that time.

POWER FAILURE: The appearance of the main object, and the disappearance of the other 2 "zapping power" over the lines near the Pecha home coincides with the endpoints of the 9-minute power failure. Pacific Gas & Electric personnel stated that a blackout of undetermined nature did indeed affect all of Colusa County when a sub-station 7 miles west of them blew an overload transformer. What Mr. Pecha did not know is that the lines involved in the sighting did not belong to PG&E, but to the Central Valley Project, a federal power system. A PG&E official said there is no connection between the two, and if anything affected the CVP lines, it would have no effect on the PG&E lines serving Colusa. IUR checked with the Regional Supervisor for CVP in Sacramento, who was familiar with the incident from other inquiries, and said there were no voltage excursions recorded that day. He also ruled out "corona discharge" around those particular lines (a PG&E suggestion) as it is a condition that can be monitored.

BOTANICAL EFFECTS: An examination of the leaves on top of the trees reveals that they have turned brown, some half-brown, especially near the house. A pear tree and lilac bush have begun to show a number of blooms blossoming, with the pear tree damaged on one side. Other areas of Colusa were checked, with no sign of off-season blooming present anywhere else. Analysis is being attempted, but it will probably be difficult to pinpoint a definite correlation between the object's presence and the effects noted. Mrs. Davis has pointed out, though, that a survey of her property by a gardener showed that the damage, and blooming, was not evident a few days before the 10th of September.

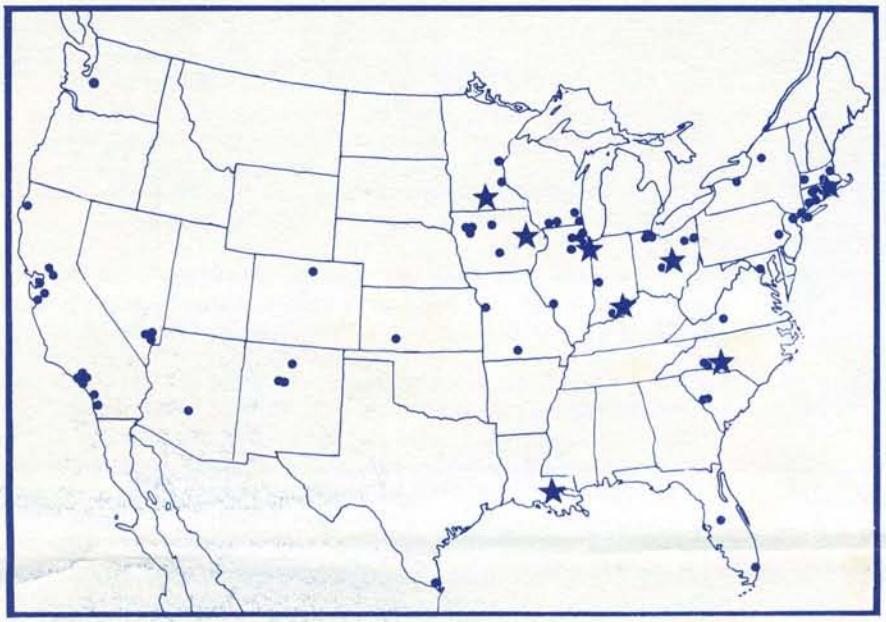
No lasting after-effects have been noted by any of the witnesses involved. A check for radioactivity revealed only a normal, residual level.

ON THE CASE

Original source: Paul Cerny, of the Center for UFO Studies, in conjunction with Robert Neville and Lois Williams of the Mutual UFO Network. Additional information from Robert Pratt, with confirmations and follow-up by IUR. All 7 witnesses were contacted directly.

(over)

PROFILE: NOVEMBER, 1976



● —IFO ★ —UFO

UFO's include 1-2-63, -76, -78, 2-1-1, -16, -25, -27, and -29. Verifications and complete details of these evaluations are available upon request.

Stars and Planets	27
Aircraft	18
Advertising Planes	13
Helicopters	5
Meteors	3
Moon	2
Spotlights	2
Satellites	1
Prank Balloons	1
Unreliable Witnesses	1
NL	8
Total Number of Reports	81
Average Per Day	2.7
Peak Activitiy (7 cases)	11/15
Total Number of UFO's	8
Total Number of IFO's	73
Under Investigation	0

UFO's: 9.9% **IFO's:** 90.1%

Note that, while the total number of reports for the month of November has dropped considerably, the number of unidentifieds is above average, resulting in a larger-than-usual share of the percentages.

None of the following agencies logged visual or radar confirmation of "unusual traffic" for that time and place: Sacramento Air Traffic Control, Chico Air Traffic Control, Oakland Air Route Traffic Control Center, Colusa County Airport, and Beale Air Force Base (the closest SAC base). No direct sightings by the Colusa Sheriff's Dept. or the city police.

The prospect of a helicopter with an unusually bright searchlight was considered. IUR checked the following agencies with negative results: the California Highway Patrol, the California Forestry Air Coordinator, and the Sacramento National Guard. It should be noted that there are numerous other sources of helicopters, both civilian and military within an hour's distance of Colusa.

The possibility of an illuminated weather balloon was rejected by the U.S. Weather Bureau on several counts: conventional balloons are launched at 4 AM and 4 PM, and burst within 2 hours; illuminated balloons used in research are possible but rare, and the trajectory described undergoes too many changes of direction and departs against the wind.

TECHNICAL CONSULTANTS

ASTRONOMY, METEOROLOGY, AERONAUTICS:
(No interpretation possible in this case)

SOCIOLOGY, Dr. Robert Hall, University of Illinois, Circle Campus:

To a behavioral scientist, the important features of this sighting include the following:

(1) There were independent confirmations by several witnesses of the general direction and timing of the UFO's movements.
(2) The prime witness had a reputation as honest, steady, calm, and mechanically knowledgeable.
(3) Several witnesses report that the prime witness showed powerful emotion after the incident.

We can confidently rule out a hoax by the prime witness, and we can confidently assert that there was some kind of real stimulus which covered about a 25 mile area over a period of about 20 minutes. We can not rule out some kind of hysterical episode in which powerful emotion resulted in distorted perception of a real stimulus—though internal evidence leads me to consider this very unlikely.

CONCLUSIONS

Probability of	Total Hoax:	Misperceived Aircraft:	Exaggerated Fantasy:	Genuine UFO:
	1%	4%	35%	60%